

Community Newsletter

February 2023 Edition



Note from Mayor Meghan F. George



We in Lakewood often refer to our community as the *City of Beautiful Homes*. It's a well-earned title that we work to maintain and build upon. But another focus for our team at City Hall is to keep Lakewood's status as a place where people can find a home they can afford, whether they are owning or renting. That focus on affordability is important for a city that takes pride in welcoming people from all backgrounds, in all stages of life, and of all incomes.

That focus on affordability takes many shapes for the team at City Hall. One key aspect is maintaining high quality housing stock while continuing to offer diverse housing options. Our planning department continues to implement our affordable housing strategy, which was recognized with a Vibrant NEO Champion Award.

The City recently established a relationship with the [Lincoln Institute of Land Policy](#), a national nonprofit dedicated to improving quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land that provides research, training, education, and policy solutions. The Lincoln Institute selected the City to pilot an exploratory scenario planning toolkit developed for them by Emma Walters and Professor Arnab Chakraborty of the University of Illinois.

Lakewood's pilot use of this toolkit is helping to develop a national model for legacy cities like Lakewood that are working to address issues impacting their communities, such as market pressures pushing prices higher and raising concerns for affordability. On January 20th, our planning department hosted a workshop session with residents to gather input and insights that will help Lakewood prepare for a variety of future housing demand possibilities. The session was led by the Greater Ohio Policy Center, who has been tapped by the Lincoln Institute to assist in the use of the toolkit. The meeting generated excellent dialogue that will continue to move this work forward, and our planning department will issue a report in the coming months. Thank you to both the Lincoln Institute and the Greater Ohio Policy Center for their guidance and support.

As we work on innovative solutions, the City remains committed to and focused on a dual track of preserving existing affordable units and adding new affordable homes through our policy making and implementation. That includes tying City incentives in new development of scale to including affordable units as well as the City positioning land for affordable projects like recently built owner-occupied infill homes on Plover and Shaw and investing in the repair, rehab, and expansion of affordable housing units like the EDEN project on Nelson Court.

Our approach also includes facilitating private development of new market rate units, which relieves market pressure on our existing housing stock. By working with developers to introduce a diversity of new units – from the infill cluster homes currently under construction on the former gas station on Lake Avenue to larger scale housing projects moving ahead by developers along major corridors like Studio West at West 117th and Detroit and Solove at Bunts and Detroit.

By being innovative with our policies, aggressive with our use of limited public dollars dedicated to this issue, and creative in our work with private developers, Lakewood can continue its tradition of being a place for everyone to find a home.

Mayor Meghan F. George

Upcoming Events & Updates

Saturday, February 4 - H2O Tributary Bash

H2O "Help to Others" will host the H2O Tributary Bash: A Seat at the Table on Saturday February 4th from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at Lakewood's new Cove Community Center. The event will feature a live auction, silent auction baskets, a wine pull, and opportunity to donate at the event. Click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.



Sunday, February 12- Car Seat Safety Check

The City of Lakewood Fire Department is hosting a Car Seat Safety Check 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Fire Station #1, 14601 Madison Avenue. This free event is open to Lakewood families who are interested in having fire department personnel install their child safety seats installed or checked for proper set up. Click [here](#) to register.

Wednesday, February 15 - Clean Water Lakewood Public Meeting

Join us for an update on Clean Water Lakewood, our city's plan to improve and update our 100-year-old sewer system. On February 15, 2023, at 7 p.m. city leaders will host a public community meeting to discuss the status of the EPA consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice. We will also share updates on the progress of the Integrated Wet Weather Improvement Plan (IWWIP) and the Interceptor Tunnel Rehabilitation Project. For more information click [here](#).

Friday, February 17 - Coffee with a Cop

Join the Lakewood Police Department for coffee and conversation on Friday, February 17 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Despina's Bakery 11823 Detroit Avenue.

Bike/Scooter Share End of Pilot Survey



In the last half of 2022, the City leveraged an existing Cuyahoga County program to conduct a local bike & scooter share system pilot for the community. The Lakewood pilot was limited to 90 devices routinely positioned across 12 station locations.

During its four-month run, the pilot demonstrated a high level of local use - recording a total of ~11,000 trips that originated and/or ended in Lakewood. As usage data continues to be studied, a community feedback survey on the pilot is being

conducted now through **February 24th**.

To participate in the community feedback survey, please [click here](#).

City of Lakewood Housing & Building Department Recognized

The City of Lakewood Housing &

Building Department received Honorable Mention for the 2022 Ohio Board of Building Standards Award for Building Department Excellence. This award recognizes dedication to customer service, effective response to the pandemic, and recruitment efforts to bring individuals into the code enforcement profession.

The David A. Smith Jr. Award for Building Excellence was created by the Ohio Board of Building Standards to recognize the work of certified building departments that exemplify the Board's vision to be a national leader in promoting a safer built environment for Ohio's citizens through knowledge, training, service, and technology.



Composting at Cove Community Center



Thanks to a grant from the [Healthy Lakewood Foundation](#), the Human Services staff will begin a new program to educate the community that comes to Cove Community Center on how to compost. This exciting new initiative includes seniors with the congregate meal program, as well as staff and visitors to the **Help Harvest Bistro**.

In addition, the Department of Human Services will partner with [Rust Belt Riders](#) throughout the coming year to pick up our compost as a test program. For more information about Composting at Cove please follow us on [Facebook](#).

Safety Forces Spotlight: Meet Lakewood Firefighter Captain Josh Erdani

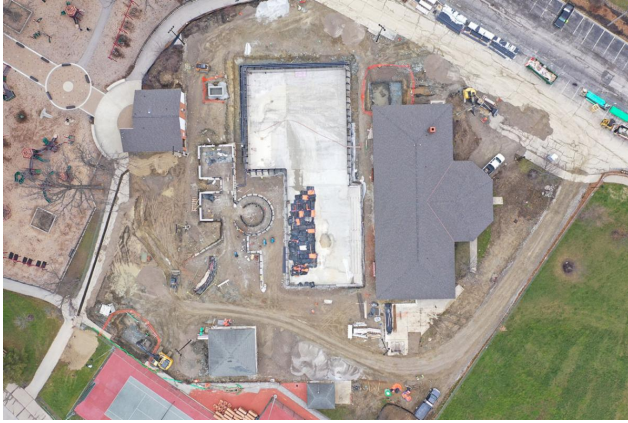
Captain Erdani was hired as a firefighter/paramedic by the City of Lakewood in 2011 and was promoted to Captain in 2022. He oversees training and testing of probationary firefighters and strives to ensure the success of the Lakewood Fire Department's (LFD) newest members. He also created a mentorship program that assigns a senior firefighter to newly hired personnel to provide guidance and support.

Captain Erdani is a member of the LFD Fire Investigation Unit, and serves on multiple departmental committees. He was awarded the LFD Meritorious Service Award in 2022.

Captain Erdani currently resides in Euclid with his wife Diane, two sons, and step daughter.



Foster Pool Progress



Update

Construction continues on the Foster Pool renovations at Lakewood Park.

The winter season has been favorable and the project remains on schedule. A new pool footprint has been established and the new concrete for the walls and pool bottom have been poured.

For more information about this exciting renovation project, click [here](#).

Snow Reminders

With winter weather upon us, all residents and business owners are reminded to please keep your sidewalk or right-of-way cleared of snow.

Per City Ordinance 521.06, every property is required to remove and keep clear, snow and ice from all sidewalks, paths, and/or drives on all areas of the property. Help do your part to keep Lakewood a year-round walkable community and clear your sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall.

To report problems relating to clearing snow from sidewalks, click [here](#) to use our Report A Problem or contact the Division of Housing and Building at 216-529-6270 or housing.building@lakewoodoh.net.



We are Hiring!

The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

- Part-time HR generalist
- Assistant Building Commissioner
- Accounting Specialist

For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).